(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above. Funds allocated for Uttar Pradesh for modernization during last three years are given below:

Sl No	Activity	Amount Allotted in (Rs. in Lakhs) 2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Computerization of Post Office Operations	630.00	NIL	135.00
2.	Computerization of Speed Post Operations and Track & Trace	NIL	NIL	16.62
3.	Maintenance of Buildings	330.00	455.00	275.00
4.	Mechanization of Operations	NIL	NIL	50.00
5.	Improving ergonomics of Speed Post Centres	NIL	NIL	1.00
6.	Improving ergonomics of Post Offices	30.00	NIL	20.00
	TOTAL :	990.00	455.00	497.62

Report of consortium of bankers

956. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) is planning to buy out the Government's 52 per cent stake in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) and retain subsidiary;

(b) whether it is also a fact that DoT has appointed a consortium of bankers led by ICICI Securities (I-Sec) to work on finding modalities for integrating the activities of the two PSUs; and

(c) by when the Consortium of Bankers is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Government has appointed a Consortium of consultant led by M/s ICICI securities to assist and aid the Government in restructuring of MTNL and BSNL. The consultants have submitted their report and it is under consideration of the Government.

Development of Post and Telegraph Sector in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand

957. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of post offices as against population in each State, State-wise;

(b) the names of the States where the post offices are less as compared to other States particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) the steps taken by Government to remove this disparity; and

(d) the details of the development works undertaken in the Post and Telegraph sector in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Circle-wise details of average population served per post office is given in the Statement I. (*See* below)

(b) Details of Circles where the average are served per post office is higher than the national average is highlighted in Annexure-I. In Maharashtra Circle the average area served per post office is slightly higher than the national average in this regard.

(c) Post offices are opened subject to distance, population and income norms. Efforts are made to open post offices wherever justified, subject to availability of resources.

(d) Under the 10th Five Year Plan, the focus is on upgrading the physical